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BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN

KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BOROUGH OF TENTERDEN (KENT)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1955.

According to the Registrar General's estimate, the mid-year Home Population was 4,420, which represents an increase by 50 over that of 1954.

The number of births was 54, which is less by 9 than in 1954 and the birth-rate per 1,000 resident population was accordingly 12.22; when this rate is adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which allows comparison with other Districts, it becomes 13.4, and is lower than that for England and Wales which was 15. The figures are, however, small for statistical comparisons, as a relatively small increase or decrease in the number of births etcetera would disproportionately influence this rate.

There were two still-births giving a rate of 35.73 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, as compared with 23.1 for England and Wales.

The number of infant deaths returned by the Registrar General was 3, compared with nil in 1953 and 1954. According to the records of this Department only 2 of those deaths were recorded, and both of those were due to unavoidable causes, namely (1) Anencephalia and (2) Sub-arachnoid Heamorrhage.

There were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 84, (40 males, 44 females) and the crude death-rate was accordingly 19.0; when this is adjusted by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, which allows comparison with other Districts on a standard population for age and sex distribution the rate becomes 12.54, compared with that for England and Wales viz. 11.7. This indicates that there is a larger age-group of old people than in the average district.

As is previous years, the highest number of deaths was due to Heart Diseases, and related Vascular or Circulatory Diseases, which are the commonest causes of death in old people.

Cancer, also as expected, caused the second highest number of deaths, viz. 11 deaths. It is note-worthy that none was due to Cancer of the Lung, to which the inhalation of tobacco smoke is alleged to be a contributory factor. Successful treatment of Cancer depends upon early diagnosis but many factors, as for example procrastination by patients, make this difficut to attain.

There were no other deaths from any exceptional cause.

Regarding infectious disease, there was an epidemic of Measles which usually occurs every second year, when there is a sufficient number of susceptible children. 206 cases were notified. It is not practicable to prevent the spread of this disease and in the majority of cases, it is not serious.

Occasionally, however, broncho-pneumonia, which is the most usual and most serious complication, occurs amongst infants and the younger the infant the more serious is the disease. This complication progresses rapidly into an advanced state and it is therefore important that an early diagnosis is made so that treatment can be begun immediately when it is usually successful.

There was also a minor epidemic of Whooping Cough, 32 cases having been notified Like Measles, it is not practicable to prevent the spread of this disease, and also the chief complication is broncho-pneumonia, which is similarly dangerous in infants and to which the same remarks apply. The value of the new vaccines to give protection against the disease is still 'sub-judice' by the Medical Research Council.

No other cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Regarding Tuberculosis, two new cases of Respiratory disease were notified. The Mass Radiography Survey in July 1954 showed that there is no significant reservoir of infection in the Borough. Modern treatment is very successful, particularly in the earlier stages and as with all infectious diseases, the earlier the diagnosis, the greater are the chances of complete recovery.

No cases of Bovine or Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified which is an index that the milk supplies in the Borough, which are Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested were safe from Tubercle Bacilli.

In conclusion, these statistics show that the health of the population may generally be regarded as having been satisfactory and I would wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the work of the Department and the staff for their efficient and loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1955

Area:- 8,946 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	4,420
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	1,494
Rateable Value	...	...	£33,480
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£128

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Tenterden Borough is a limb of the Ancient Town of Rye and throughout the Centuries has retained its identity, its character of charm, and its historical traditions.

The Borough is chiefly a residential district and being surrounded by wide rural areas its interests are chiefly those of agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.		Tenterden Borough District	England and Wales
1.	Live Births	54	32	22	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.22	15.0
	(a) Legitimate	50	29	21			
	(b) Illegitimate	4	3	1			
2.	Stillbirths	2	2	-			
	(a) Legitimate	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	35.73	23.1
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3.	Deaths	84	40	44	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	19.0	11.7
4.	Deaths from Pregnancy Childbirth and Abortion.	-	-	-	Rates per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not availab
5.	Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	3	2	1			
	(a) Legitimate	3	2	1			
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	55.56	24.9
Rate re legitimate infants	60.0	
Rate re illegitimate infants	-	

6.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	-
	Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-
	Deaths from Measles	-

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, 1955.

Whooping Cough	32
Measles	206

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TENTERDEN BOROUGH

DURING 1955

ALL CAUSES	Males	Females
	40	44
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	5
Coronary disease, angina	6	2
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	14	24
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	1
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	-	-
Suicide	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1955

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since the 1st January, 1941).

Year of Birth	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injection (whether primary or booster) 1951 - 1955	1	21	22	27	23	49	58	40	31	45	48	50	43	43	6	507
1950 or earlier	23	12	12	10	8	3	-	28	29	8	-	-	-	-	-	133

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1955.

The following is a return of (A) the number of chidren who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation																	
Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total	
Primary Inoculations	6	38	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	49	
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	3	19	11	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	35	
(B) Vaccination																Before 1941	Total
Primary Vaccination	20	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	37
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	10	16

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality 1955

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	14	2	2
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Totals	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The transfer of the Cranbrook Water Company's Undertaking (which supplied most of the Borough) to the Mid-Kent Water Company took place on 1st October, 1955, pursuant to the provisions of the Kent Water Act, 1955. Water samples taken from the mains continue to be of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

Arrangements have been made by the new Undertakers to lay a new feeder main from their existing Woodchurch mains to connect with the Borough supply at the junction of Swain Road and Ashford Road, St. Michaels, thus providing water from an alternative source with the attendant obvious benefits.

The Reading Road and Reading Street Extension was satisfactorily completed and some 21 properties connected thereto.

There were, however, three premises the owners of which were reluctant to connect to the new main. Water samples for Bacteriological report were taken from their existing supplies, all of which were unsatisfactory. As a result two of the premises, the "White Hart & Lamb" Public House and Brockett House are now connected to the new main, and similar arrangements are in hand with regard to the remaining property.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Complaints of the unsatisfactory effluent discharged from the Borough Outfall works continue to be lodged by the Kent River Board. The Scheme for the installation of additional equipment at the outfall works recently approved by the Council is becoming a matter of some urgency to relieve the now heavily loaded settlement tanks and filters. Two cesspool complaints were dealt with during the year.

3. Housing.

Thirty private houses and twenty-four Council houses were built during the year making a total of 114 private houses and 204 Council houses built since the last war.

There are 68 applicants on the Waiting List for Council houses.

14 applications for Improvement Grants under Part 11 of the Housing Act, 1949, and Part 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were approved and the Grant paid during the year in respect of Improvements carried out to private properties.

A comprehensive report was prepared and circulated of 120 very old dwelling houses inspected within the Borough under the provisions of Section 9 of Part 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, relating to the standard of fitness for human habitation; a number of which have been provisionally designated for appropriate action over the next five years.

4. Nursing Homes and Hospitals.

The West View Hospital has been regularly visited and inspected with regard to Pest Control, with the result that it is

now virtually Pest free. There is one Nursing Home in the District containing 24 beds, which is most efficiently managed and reaches a high standard in all respects.

5. Hop-Pickers Encampments.

All six camps were visited during the Hop Picking Season, and appropriate observations with regard to W.C. accommodation were acted upon. Conditions were generally satisfactory.

6. Eradication of Vermin.

One case of Infestation by fleas and bugs was found and dealt with.

7. Milk Supplies.

There were five registered Distributors of Milk and one Registered Dairy in the Borough. Four of the Suppliers are Pasteurised and one Tuberculin-Tested. 15 Milk samples were taken for Pathological Examination, all of which satisfied the tests.

8. Meat and other Foods.

There is one Slaughterhouse in the Borough which is mainly used for casualty slaughterings. Slaughtering conditions are satisfactory.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
ber killed	-	-	5	45	36
ber inspected	-	-	-	8	14
diseases except Tuberculosis					
le carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
cases of which some part or an was condemned	-	-	-	1	1
centage of the number pected affected with disease er than tuberculosis	-	-	-	2.2%	2.8%
erculosis only					
le carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
cases of which some part organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
centage of the number pected affected with erculosis.	-	-	-	-	-

4 cwt. 1 qtr. 1¾ lbs. Fresh Meat, 35 lbs. tinned Meat, 13 lbs. other canned Foods and 28 lbs. Fish were condemened as unfit for human consumption during the year. A proportion of the Fresh Meat condemned was due to delayed delivery and consequent deteoration owing to strikes.

Twelve samples of Ice Cream were taken, nine of which were Categorised Grade 1, one Grade 11 and two Grade 111, the latter grading was improved after instructions were given to properly sterilize servers between each service.

Restaurants and Hotel Kitchens have been inspected and found reasonably satisfactory. No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

9. Sanitary Inspection of the District

Details of Inspection work carried out:-

	No. of Vis
Hop-pickers Camps	5
Bakehouses	2
Slaughterhouses	3
Other Food Preparing Places (excluding Ice-Cream)	8
Milk Samples	15
Ice Cream Samples	12
Factories	10
Sanitary Conveniences	8
Keeping of Animals	2
Sanitary Accommodation	121
Drainage	81
Cesspools	5
Offensive Accumulation	3
Refuse receptacles	20
Public Health Nuisances	6
Water Supplies	7
Miscellaneous	11
Rodent Control	30
	349

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupier Prosecut
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	15	2	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
iii. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11	15	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
nt of cleanliness (S.1) ...	-	-	-	-	-
ercrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
reasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
adequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
effective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
nitary Convenience (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
her offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
	2	2	-	2	-